



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340 telephone
(801) 359-3940 fax
(801) 538-7223 TTY
www.nr.utah.gov

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

June 25, 2002

TO: Minerals File

THRU: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *WH*

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Specialist *DJensen*

RE: Release of Reclaimed Evaporation Pond and Adjacent Unused Sections within the Bingham Canyon Permit, Kennecott Utah Copper Company, Bingham Canyon Mine, M/035/002, Tooele County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 20, 2002
Time of Inspection: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
Conditions: Warm and Sunny
Participants: Rich Borden, John Cherry, Jonathan Callender, KUC; Brian Vinton, NAE;
Wayne Hedberg, Doug Jensen, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

Follow up on KUC's March 12, 2002, written request for DOGM inspection to release Sections 7, 17, 18, & 19, T3S, R1W and Sections 13, 14, 15, 24, 25 and 28, T3S, R2W, SLBM, from Bingham Canyon Permit, M/035/002.

Observations:

In a meeting at KUC offices prior to the tour of the areas in question, KUC personnel presented maps and aerial photos of the areas to be released and discussed proposed post-mine land uses for the areas. It was noted that all of Sections 7, 17, and portions of 18, & 19, T3S, R1W, all of Section 25, and portions of Sections 14, 15, T3S, R2W, presently do not belong to Kennecott. Although Sections 7, 17 and 25 fall within the Bingham Canyon permit area, they have not been impacted by any mining activities to date.

Four of the Sections (18 & 19, 13 & 24) were partially impacted by evaporation ponds, which were permanently closed in 1987. A post mine land use of a major community development plan (KDC - Sunrise Development) is being proposed to cover a majority of the area under consideration for release.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

KUC outlined a proposal for the post-mine land use in the area being considered for release. The plan for this area will be a self-contained community development. This South Jordan community plan will contain single and multiple housing units and a business infrastructure that will support the proposed community. Upon the completion of this development a total of 13,500 residential units and 45,000 people are projected to inhabit this community. A portion of this planned community will be placed over the area of the reclaimed evaporation ponds.

The clean-up of the evaporation pond sludges was completed in 1995. This remediation and reclamation was completed in accordance with the Administrative Order on Consent for the South Jordan Evaporation Ponds (USEPA Docket No. CERCLA-VIII-18), Record of Decision. The clean-up consisted of removal of sludges from approximately 1000 acres of this ~1200 acre facility and disposal of same within an EPA approved waste dump repository on KUC property. Some of the lower level contaminated sludges were consolidated into the remaining 210 acre parcel. The sludges on this parcel were mounded, covered with 3 to 5 feet of soil and revegetated. This 210 acre portion will require limitations to the post mine land use of this particular 210 acre area due to elevated gypsum and sulfate contaminants. Mr. Callender indicated that Rio Tinto (KUC's parent) was considering the complete removal of the sludges, to remove any limitations/restrictions to the land use in this area. Until this decision is made, the Division will consider limitations to any post-mining plans that will reimpact this stabilized area. This entire area has received a finding of NFA (No Further Action) from the EPA.

A portion of the area being considered for release also contains an area labeled as the Bastian Sink. The proposed community plat furnished by KUC indicates that "standard density" housing will be placed on a portion of this area. The Bastian Sink area contains areas of elevated lead and arsenic (~1200 ppm); therefore, some remedy to these health hazards will need to be completed before the Division will consider a release of this area under this designated post-mine land use.

The area being considered for release also has a number of monitoring, extraction wells and multiple pipelines. A map indicating the location of these facilities and area of impact should be submitted for the Division's perusal. These areas will need to remain under KUC control and will require a reclamation effort in the future; therefore, this map will be necessary to track this responsibility.

Portions of the Bingham Creek restoration were also toured. This is an area that was impacted by historic deposition of mill tailings. This area was also cleaned up as a result of an EPA directive (Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action, Bingham Creek Channel (USEPA 1993; Docket No. CERCLA-VIII-93-10). The proposed housing plat indicates that upon development of this area the Bingham Creek Channel will remain as a park or open space.

The development of a housing development in this excess water disposal area coincides with the post mine land uses listed by KUC's 1978 reclamation plan. The plan cites a number of possible uses of this land when no longer needed for the mining operation (i.e., sand & gravel operations,

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farming, water storage, recreational, sludge or water disposal by others, residential, commercial or industrial development).

At the conclusion of the inspection, KUC agreed to submit supplemental information regarding the remediation work performed, the infrastructure and plans for the 210 acre capped sludge disposal. KUC will also furnish a map of the area delineating production & monitor wells, pipeline corridors and areas which will remain under KUC's control. These items will be needed to assist DOGM in responding to the release request. The Division will await the receipt of these items before a final decision regarding this request is made.

jb
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